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## MINUTES

**Nassau County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Second Core Planning Group Meeting #1  
January 12, 2006  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Attending:**

Name	Affiliation	Address	Phone	Fax	E-mail
Terry Winters	NC OEM	100 Carman Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554	516-573-0636	516-573-0673	<a href="mailto:twinters@nassaucountyny.gov">twinters@nassaucountyny.gov</a>
Warren Tackenberg	NC VOA		516-437-1455		<a href="mailto:exec@ncvoa.org">exec@ncvoa.org</a>
Jonathan Lesman	NC DPW		516-571-9634		<a href="mailto:jlesman@nassaucountyny.gov">jlesman@nassaucountyny.gov</a>
Donna Plante	Town of North Hempstead DPW	285 Denton Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040	516-739-6719	516-739-6717	<a href="mailto:planted@northhempstead.com">planted@northhempstead.com</a>
Bruce W. Early	Glen Cove Police		516-676-1283		<a href="mailto:bwe11@aol.com">bwe11@aol.com</a>
Michael Salentino	Glen Cove Dir. OEM/DPW		516-676-4853		Bruce Early will give Mike Salentino copies of E-mails
Howard Hemsley	City of Long Beach		516-431-1000 X454		<a href="mailto:hghemsley@longbeachny.org">hghemsley@longbeachny.org</a>
Jeanne Prochilo	NC OEM	100 Carman Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554	516-573-0636		<a href="mailto:jprochilo@nassaucountyny.gov">jprochilo@nassaucountyny.gov</a>
Alex Moschos	Village of Port Washington North		516-238-4013		<a href="mailto:amoschos@aol.com">amoschos@aol.com</a>
Bob Weitzner	Village of Port Washington North		516-883-5900		<a href="mailto:portnorthmayor@optonline.net">portnorthmayor@optonline.net</a>
Mark Buttice	NC Planning/GIS		516-571-5893		<a href="mailto:mark.buttice@mail.co.nassau.ny.us">mark.buttice@mail.co.nassau.ny.us</a>
Doug Shearer	KeySpan/LIPA				
Anna Foley	URS Corp.	201 Willowbrook Blvd., Box 290 Wayne, NJ 07474	973-785-0700 ext. 449	973-812-0985	<a href="mailto:anna_foley@urscorp.com">anna_foley@urscorp.com</a>
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The CPG is a working group comprising key representatives of Nassau County's three towns and two cities, and key stakeholders. The CPG will manage the overall formulation of activities and contribute to the decision making process. Representatives on the CPG are in effect coordinators because they organize outreach efforts within their respective boundaries by means of a team concept. The teams, "Area Assessment Teams," (AATs) include representatives from the towns, villages, and cities as well as key stakeholders within that particular geographic area. The function of the AATs is to facilitate and coordinate planning efforts that are required in a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan.

Because no representatives of participating jurisdictions were able to attend the first CPG meeting on November 14, 2005, a second session of CPG Meeting #1 was held on Thursday, January 12, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the offices of the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management in East Meadow, New York.

- The morning session opened with Terry Winters of the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management welcoming the group and providing opening remarks.
- Anna Foley of URS Corporation gave a PowerPoint presentation with a brief overview of the project and planning team structure, highlighting DMA 2000 and criteria for participation and for grant eligibility, as well as a summary of the hazard identification and hazard profile steps of the process.

*[**Note:** A copy of the presentation was included with the handouts. It can also be found on the Nassau County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan web site at:  
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/hazmit/hazmitMtg.html> (scroll down to January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, and then click on the link for the morning session PowerPoint presentation.)]*

- Ms. Foley and Mr. Winters took questions throughout the presentations.

**Q1** How will we identify hazards that will be considered?

**A1** (Ms. Foley) There will be a full discussion of that later in the session.

(Mr. Winters) Ms. Foley has done extensive research on this issue.

*[**Note:** Later in the presentation, it was explained that a full range of 20 different natural hazards were evaluated. Of these, 10 were found to be significant and will be the focus of the plan, while the remaining 10 were found not to be significant and will not be addressed further at this time. URS presented the results of the hazard identification step to the Planning Group participants for their input in the form of the Hazard ID Questionnaire, which summarizes results and asks for Group comment on whether they concur with the URS determination, for Group members to provide other information on hazards in their communities.]*

**Q2** (Mr. Hemsley) If something happens in Long Beach who will address this? The County? The City of Long Beach?

**A2** (Mr. Winters) If the resources of the City are exceeded during a disaster, the City manager would declare a state-of-emergency and request assistance from the County. If the resources of the County were exceeded, the County would request assistance from New York State. If the resources of the State were exceeded, the State would request a Federal disaster (or emergency) declaration, which if approved, would open up Federal resources to support recovery efforts. Do not underestimate the power of elected officials to obtain help. In the case of a hamlet, the process would be similar, but the first step for a hamlet would be to request assistance from the town government, who would then request assistance from the County if needed.

*[Note: In 1988, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206, was enacted to support state and local governments and their citizens when disasters overwhelm them. This law, as amended, establishes a process for requesting and obtaining a Presidential disaster declaration, defines the type and scope of assistance available from the Federal government, and sets the conditions for obtaining that assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, is tasked with coordinating the response. Additional information on the process can be found on the FEMA web site at [http://www.fema.gov/rrr/dec\\_guid.shtm..](http://www.fema.gov/rrr/dec_guid.shtm..)]*

**Q3** (Mr. Hemsley) Wouldn't we be giving up power to do that? Will staff be told where to go?

**A3** (Mr. Winters) Local jurisdictions requesting support from the County/State/Federal levels will not be giving up power. The process of requesting assistance and support opens up resources at increasingly higher levels of government to support local efforts, but does not result in those higher levels of government taking things over for a local jurisdiction.

**Q4** Does a 10- or 15-year storm qualify (i.e. the rain storms in October?)

**A4** (Mr. Winters) We were fortunate in a sense with the October storms. They gave us a lot of information on what happens.

(Ms. Foley) It depends on what you mean, I suppose, by 'qualify'. (a) To recover from any event that overwhelms a local jurisdiction, that jurisdiction could request and potentially get support from County/State/Federal levels.

Nevertheless, it does tend to be larger storms that overwhelm local officials to the degree that they would need to request outside resources. (b) Alternatively, if you are asking whether a mitigation action developed to eliminate damage during a 10- or 15- year storm would qualify for Federal funding, that depends on the relationship of the project's anticipated benefits compared to its costs. The answer is driven by whether the action would be cost effective; that is, whether

the reduction in damages (benefits) is expected to be at least equal to the project's cost. In general terms, more benefits tend to be derived from protecting against the frequent events that cause minor damage over and over again as opposed to protecting against the very rare (but more damaging) types of events.

**Q5** (Mr. Hemsley) How do we know what hazards to mitigate? Will the county send engineers to look?

**A5** (Mr. Winters) It is up to you, the individual municipalities (participating jurisdictions), to select mitigation actions for inclusion in the plan. When the plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by a jurisdiction, that jurisdiction will be eligible to apply for FEMA mitigation project funds. The New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSEMO) will let the County know about funding streams as they become available, and then we will help the participating jurisdictions apply.

(Ms. Foley) As part of the plan development process, participating jurisdictions will be able to learn about hazards in their communities, assets at risk, and potential types of mitigation actions that they can implement to reduce damages. This information will be provided to the Planning Group in a series of Interim Deliverables. It will be up to each participating jurisdiction to review this information and use this knowledge to identify and prioritize actions that it wishes to implement. The jurisdiction must then provide that information to Terry so I can include it in the Plan.

**Q6** (Mr. Tackenberg) How do we meet FEMA requirements?

**A6** (Ms. Foley) FEMA mitigation planning requirements for local jurisdictions are presented in your folder of handouts (see the one page "Sources of Information on Hazard Mitigation Planning"). The Crosswalk Reference Document is the set of rules by which we are playing. Our plan development process has been built around this. To make the meaning of participation in the countywide, multi-jurisdictional plan development process clear to each Planning Group member, we have put together a one page table of Participation Criteria. This is also included in the handouts.

➤ Discussion

(Mr. Weitzman) Every village should appoint someone to be at every meeting about emergency management.

(Mr. Tackenberg) Five south shore villages got together some years ago. But it's like herding cats – one comes in and two jump out. Also, some villages may be changing administrators. And emergency management is often put on the back burner.

(Mr. Wietzner) Katrina opened my eyes to what could happen to us here.

**Q7** (Mr. Hemsley) Will there be a checklist for the outreach component of the planning process?

- A7** (Ms. Foley) A Guidance Memorandum (combined Guidance Memo #1 and #2 -- see handouts) has been distributed detailing what participating jurisdictions can do to reach out to the public and other stakeholders. If you document outreach activities as you undertake them and provide that information to me (through Terry), I can include it in the Plan. There is an Outreach Log at the back of the memorandum that you can use to keep track. Outreach regarding the mitigation plan can often be rolled into things you already do on a day-to-day basis. Do not sell yourself short: Outreach is a requirement for plan approval by FEMA. The overall plan will only 'count' for the subset of communities who successfully do so.
- Q8** (Mr. Weitzner) Do we need a resolution to sign on?
- A8** (Ms. Foley) You do not need to have a resolution while we are doing a plan. Municipalities will need to adopt the final plan by formal resolution.  
(Mr. Winters) A sample adoption resolution was distributed previously, and will be posted on our web site. We will also distribute with these meeting minutes. Once you have officially adopted the plan and it is approved by FEMA, you will be eligible to apply for FEMA mitigation project grant funds.
- Q9** If you identify hazards and nothing is done, is there liability?
- A9** (Ms. Plante) I just met with the North Hempstead Town Attorney. He says I should not put anything in writing until he has seen it. He told me that instead of listing things as historical events, I should say 'this can happen'.  
(Mr. Winters) This question came up in some of our Area Assessment Team meetings back in November. We followed up with SEMO and FEMA to see what their suggestion would be for local jurisdictions. NYSEMO recognizes this concern and suggests that communities that are concerned about potential liabilities as they relate to the plan development process should coordinate directly with their community's legal staff. FEMA Region 2 recognizes that this is a legitimate concern regarding how the planning process and the planning document (specifically the risk and vulnerability assessment section and action items) might bolster a claim or suit against a community for negligence. Region 2 has posed the question to legal staff at FEMA Headquarters and is awaiting a response. In the interim, the Region agrees with NYSEMO that communities that are concerned about potential liabilities as they relate to the plan development process should coordinate directly with their community's legal staff.
- Q10** (Mr. Hemsley) What kinds of projects would qualify – bulkheading and sea walls?
- A10** (Ms. Foley) That depends on the particular funding stream. In general, I believe larger projects such as sea walls and bulkheads are only eligible if they protect a critical facility. If you search the FEMA web site ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) you can find information on eligible project types under particular grant programs (i.e., Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (PDM)).

**Q11** (Mr. Shearer) LIPA has between 21 and 40 sub-stations that can be flooded with water from hurricanes. LIPA is a State organization. Can we count as a ‘participating jurisdiction’? And in turn, when the plan is approved, can we apply for mitigation project funds?

**A11** (Ms. Foley) According to the CFR, public authorities are also considered ‘jurisdictions’ that can participate in the process. And yes, in turn, as a participating jurisdiction, public authorities could apply for mitigation project funds.

**Q12** (Mr. Hemsley) Would this filter down to housing authorities?

**A12** (Ms. Foley) I believe that in the case of a local housing authority, the city/town/village would serve as the sponsor. That is, the municipality would put in the application.

➤ Comments

Terry Winters of the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management discussed difficulties in getting local municipalities to “buy into” the planning process. Many jurisdictions that have expressed interest in participating have come to few, if any, meetings. Very few (only nine to date) have completed the Hazard ID questionnaires.

NCOEM has posted information on the planning process on its **web site**. Please check back frequently for updates. The address is:

<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/hazmit/hazmit.html>.

Please see handouts for a **Fact Sheet** on the planning process. Extra copies are available; please take more before you leave, or contact Terry for larger quantities. The fact sheet is also on the mitigation planning web site.

All **Guidance Memos** prepared to-date are included in the handouts. A reminder that actions are required on your part. See the memos for more information.

Mr. Buttice of the Nassau County Planning Department said that public notification of the plan may be different under Nassau County requirements than under FEMA requirements. Nassau, he said, requires at least 30 days notification between the draft plan and the final plan.

Mr. Winters asked the participants to reach out to him if they have any further questions. He also announced that May 31, 2006 and June 1, 2006 there will be an annual conference on hurricane preparedness at the Huntington Hilton. The public would be invited to the May 31 evening session.

➤ Next steps

Time ran out for the Working Session component of the meeting. Participants were asked to include the following information as attachments to their Hazard ID Questionnaire (or separately, if they have already included the questionnaire): discussion and identification of specific problem areas in your community with regard to natural hazards; ideas for potential mitigation projects; natural hazards and their affects in your community; and a quick summary of outreach activities you have undertaken to date (how are things going?).

Outreach to jurisdictions, the public and other stakeholders within your area – use the Outreach Log. This will be ongoing: Outreach Logs to URS by March 15.

Feedback regarding Plan Maintenance Procedures to Terry by January 31.

Completion of the Capability Assessment (Attachment A of Guidance Memo #4): provided to Terry by January 31.

Feedback regarding Plan Maintenance Procedures to Terry by January 31.